COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE CASE

Please cancel claim 4 and amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, and 28 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of sharing information ~~attributes of a first entry with other entries in a directory system~~, the method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

~~generating the value of at least one attribute of the first entry, whereby the user's attribute may be shared with other entries in a manner transparent to an application.~~

associating a plurality of entries with a directory system that is accessed by an application, wherein the plurality of entries comprises a first entry and a second entry;

associating an at least one attribute with the first entry and the second entry;

generating a value based on a class of service logic, wherein the value provides information associated with a user of the application; and

associating the value with the at least one attribute, whereby the value is shared by the first entry and the second entry in a manner that is transparent to the application.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

generating the value of the at least one attribute at the time the first entry is transmitted to [[an]] the application.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

generating the value of the at least one attribute immediately prior to the time the first entry is transmitted to [[an]] the application.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising the step steps of:

~~defining a class of service (CoS) attribute for a target entry, the CoS attribute~~ ~~including a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry, whereby the CoS Definition~~ ~~entry and the Template entry interact to provide an attribute value to a target entry~~ ~~that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.~~

defining a class of service (CoS) attribute, wherein the CoS attribute includes a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry;

associating the CoS attribute with a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry; and

providing an attribute value for the target entry based on the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

6.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP subentry below the branch at which it is effective.

7.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type being used.

8.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute values that are shared.

9.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS Definition entry.

10.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

11.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template determines what value a target entry may receive as a CoS value.

12.   (Original) The method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of: changing an attribute value in the Template entry.

13.   (Original) The method as in claim 12, further comprising the step of: automatically applying the changed attribute value to all entries that share the attribute.

14.   (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

15.   (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

16.   (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

first component configured to store a plurality of target entries;

second component configured to facilitate sharing attributes of a first

entry with other entries in a directory system; and

third component configured to generate [[the]] a value [[of]] for at least

one attribute of the first entry, whereby the [[user's]] at least one attribute may

be shared with other entries in a manner that is transparent to an application.

17.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further

comprises:

fourth component configured to generate of the at least one attribute at the

time the entry is transmitted to [[an]] the application.

18.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further

comprises:

fifth component configured to generate the value of the at least one attribute

immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to [[an]] the application.

19.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further

comprises:

sixth component configured to use a class of service logic to generate the at

least one attribute of the user to generate the value based on a class of service logic,

wherein the value provides information associated with a user of the application.

20. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

first component configured to store a plurality of target entries; and

second component configured to define a class of service (CoS) attribute for a target entry, the CoS attribute including a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry, whereby the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry interact to provide an attribute value to a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

21. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP subentry below the branch at which it is effective.

22. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type being used.

23. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute values that are shared.

24. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS Definition entry.

25. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

26.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template determines what value entry may receive as a CoS value.

27.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, further comprising:
       a component to change an attribute value in the Template entry.

28.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising:
       a component to automatically apply the changed attribute value to all entries that share the attribute.

29.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

30.   (Original) The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.